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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/22/2019

TAGS: PREL PGOV AF IN

SUBJECT: INDIA SUPPORTS STATEMENT OF IMPARTIALITY IN AFGHAN ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 63551

Classified By: CDA Peter Burleigh for Reasons 1.4 (B and D)

(S) Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon affirmed for the Charge d'Affaires June 22 that India supported efforts (reftel) to emphasize the impartiality of the international community with respect to Afghanistan's August 20 Presidential and Provincial Council elections. Menon said he anticipated External Affairs Minister Krishna would sign on to a statement by the international network of Special Representatives for Afghanistan and Pakistan after the collective meeting in Trieste June 26, provided it was "reasonably acceptable." He added that India already had plans to issue a similar statement of its own and would still do so after the Trieste statement in the weeks leading up to the August 20 elections.

BURLEIGH